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WANTED

INTERCESSORY MISSIONARIES

FOR INDIA

Being a Call for Covenanted Intercessory Missionaries.

TO WORK AT HOME.

THE WELSH MISSION PRESS.
SYLHET.

WANTED!

THOUSAND MISSIONARIES FOR THE ______________ MISSION, INDIA. !!

India has over 3000 foreign missionaries who are living in various parts of that country and are seeking to turn men "from idols to serve the living God."

Success, there has been, but "India's long dark night is not yet ended." "Is it not almost incredible——that over *two hundred million* people still believe that a sight of the Himalayan snows or a dip in the Ganges river will take away the sins of a life-time?"

The past year has been a wonderful one in India. Such marvellous and widespread revivals have been taking place—especially the one in the Khassee Hills, that there seems to be a general conviction that this is preeminently India's "time of visitation." May it not pass away till *tens of thousands* have been saved!

It is desired that thousands of those in the home land may offer themselves for missionary service in India just now, according to the definition on P. 3.

The work to be done and the method proposed is described on PP. 6, 7.

Those wishing, through prayer and intercession, to labour in definite co-operation with those now in India may feel led by the Holy Spirit to fill in the blank form (P 11) and send it to some one on the field.

It is hoped that thousands of new missionaries will soon reach India not by taking passage on an ocean steamer but *via* the shut door of the closet.

"Ye that are the Lords remembrancers, *take ye no rest* and *give Him no rest* till He establish and till He make Jerusalam a praise in the earth."

INTERCESSORY FOREIGN MISSIONARIES.

By Rev. Alfred E. Street.

The following is not a literary presentation of truth, but is designed to be a practical suggestion for work. This purpose has determined the form of presentation. It has grown out of the writer's experience in addressing churches, and the reception that has been accorded the truths here presented has revealed the need for their more general diffusion.

Christ did not command us to pray the Lord of the harves that He send forth missionaries, but "labourers." The difference is intentional, for there are others just as necessary as missionaries. ("Missionary" is the Latin form of the Greek "apostle," meaning "one sent.")

Those harvest hands who directly reach the souls of men and save them can be divided generally into, (1), native workers, and in all countries the burden of evangelization rests upon them; (2), missionaries, who are no longer needed when the natives have learned all they can teach. (Some centuries ago they finished their work among the English); (3), intercessors, who give their time and strength to the distinct work of definite intercessory prayer.

Of these three classes, if comparison is possible among things all of which are necessary, the intercessor is most important because he is working at the very root and foundation of all harvest success and, in so far as man is responsible, his faithfulness determines the success of all others.

An Interecessory Foreign Missionary is a "labourer" who cannot go in person to the foreign field, but who has set himself apart to pray for the definite details of the foreign missionary work. He only is entitled to the name who enters upon an engagement to work for definite fields; an engagement as real as an appointment by as foreign mission board.

His striking peculiarites are that he is working in the realm of "the heavenlies" instead of among visible men, and that there are no restrictions as to the number who can be intercessors, to the place of their residence or to the variety, sweep and completeness of the results accomplished.

Necessity for Intercessory Missionaries.

That mission field which has the largest number of missionaries (faithful intercessors), of whose names are not in the published lists will always be the most successfully harvested. This is so,

(a) Because of the nature of missionary activity.

Ephesians 6: 10–20 reveals the fact clearly, concisely and completely, showing that we are not primarily overcoming the prejudices and superstitions of men but "principalities, powers, world-rulers of this darkness, spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenlies" which are various grades of rulers organized into invisible kingdoms of darkness. In Daniel 10 some of these principalities are mentioned by name: "Prince of Greece," "Prince of Persia," "Kings of Persia, " etc: while Christ calls the head of all these kingdoms the "Prince of the World." Other forces are revealed in "the horses and chariots of fire round about Elisha" and the "twelve legions of angels" mentioned by Jesus. Thus revelation shows missionary activity to be a spiritual war between the forces of Christ and those of Satan, not man trying to reform and civilize man. This war is waged for the possession of living men and through the medium of living men. Christ seeks men to be 'members of his body" while Satan "enters" the hearts of men so that each works out his purposes through the men who submit to him. It follows that men must go in person, as Jesus came to the world in person to do the work made possible by prayer.

(b) Because prayer based on God's Word is the only weapon man can use to touch the invisible foe. We can reach a Chinaman by speaking face to face with him but we can strike the spiritual Prince of China only by way of the place "above where Christ is" ever living to make intercession. An inspection of Ephesians 6 shows that the end of putting on armour of God is to pray for all the saints, but especially for Paul who represents his Missionary successors. This armour is not for selfish protection but to enable us to "stand," and like Moses, Aaron, and Hur, by supplication give victory to those fighting Amalek. Jesus did not call upon the twelve legions of angels but upon his disciples, that they should watch with him in prayer while he fought the invisible foe, and in this has shown the way for all who "fight the fight of faith." Even now it is by intercession that he continues the war.

(c) Because the missionary on the field cannot alone do his work.

When the intercessors' hands fall Amalak prevails on the mission field to-day. The enemy is strong, Jesus refuses to bow down to Satan, but the heathen bow and worship, therefore the blackness of darkness broods over those lands, a stifling, choking power of death. There,a Christain is like a diver at the bottom of the sea.

In Christian countries prayer is continually offered for the pastor and for every detail of the work of the church, special meetings are held to pray for a revival. In open-air meetings, while one is speaking, others are praying. Exactly in the same way one or two missionaries alone among thousands or millions need other persons to pray definitely while they work or speak. Only the need is more urgent, as there are more deaths "on the firing line" than in the quiet of the home. The body of Christ does not consist of each one of us individually but of all together, and if a missionary is left without sufficient aid in prayer, he suffers, limps, stumbles. Some have even fallen away. He may succeed in fighting his way to the very presence of God and receive blessings unspeakable, but meanwhile the heathen perish and God tells us that their blood is to be required at the hands of those who did not do their part.

(Ezekiel 33: 1—6.)

WHAT CAN BE DONE.

A host of intercessors can be speedily enlisted for this war.

Enough missionaries and money can be found really to accomplish our task.

Suitable men can be sent as missionaries and the unsuitable can be prevented from making the mistake of going. Such mistakes have in the past cost many lives and thousands of dollars. They can be prohibited by the Lord of the harvest only when He is asked to do so. Even Christ himself prayed all night before he chose the first twelve missionaries. (It is a significant fact that there is no distinct command for man to send forth missionaries. That work was done by Christ himself and then by his Spirit when he chose Paul and Barnabas. When they tried to choose fellow workers they quarrelled over the choice. The command is to Pray.)

Many urgent questions of general missionary policy can be solved only through much prayer.

Individual heathen can be prayed for by name and thus saved.

A native ministry can be raised up and maintained.

Revivals can continually spring up on the foreign fields.

Fresh fillings of the Holy Spirit can be given to overburdened missionaries.

The health and strength of missionaries can be maintained under the severe strain of their physical and social surroundings.

Lonely missionaries, those without many friends, can be cheered and helped until their usefulness is many times multiplied.

Experience has repeatedly shown that the believing prayer of one humble intercessor at home can bring about a revival on the foreign field and save thousands. The experience of one missionary was, that as far as man can see results he was able to do more for the heathen toiling as an intercessor in America than while he was among the heathen without intercessors pleading for him.

HOW TO DO THE WORK.

Decide deliberately that this intercession is to be a regular binding duty.

Select fixed days, hours, times, and make them take precedence, as far as possible, of all other engagements.

Begin humbly, letting experience enlarge and guide.

Wait on the Lord of the harvest for directions as to what part of the field you are to belong to.

Learn the names of all missionaries of all connections in your field and pray for them by name.

Do not pity the missionary or condole with him, but give him your sympathetic help.

Write to the missionaries you are praying for, asking pointedly what their difficulties and needs are. Tell them you do not want something bright and newsy, but something dark and discouraging, and that when they are worn out you want them to drop you a postal telling you that, so that you can pray them strong again.

Pray for every need or condition that you can learn about.

Form the habit of letting God impress upon you the things to pray for. He will do it.

Not many words are needed, but much time must be spent in "waiting" upon him, the very silence calling for His will to be done. Silence enables one to draw very near to God. "We know not how to pray as we ought" and we must let "the Spirit Himself make intercession.

Study and practice the art of praying until you are expert in it. The Bible furnishes its laws and examples which can be worked out by patient practice only like any other art.

WARNINGS.

Many many times you will be tempted to give it all up as useless, for every possible form of deception will be among Satan's "wiles" to stop your intercession; for if he can stop each one his victory is assured, and there are alarmingly few intercessors.

Be ready, patiently to toil on without apparent results; time is required for them to show. Many a labourer has worked for years without seeing the results that overjoyed his successors: can not you do the same ?

Woe be to any one who tries to become an intercessory missionary while the Lord is calling him to go in person. In Matthew 7 : 23 Christ calls such "ye that worked iniquity or lawlessnes," for although they had been eminently successful workers in the church, what they did was not "the will" of God for them.

GENERAL TRUTHS.

INDIRECT WORK—Every Christian should do some work as an intercessory missionary, but there are some at home whom the Lord calls to give their daily toil for the salvation of the nations. Many are needed who by teaching, writing, and exhorting shall arouse Christians to a sense of their responsibility for the death of those who perish, not because they are sinners, but because the salvation prepared for them by Christ has never been offered them by men. In the work here suggested house to house visitation among church members has been proved most effective in arousing them to their privileges in the foreign fields. A caution is here needed, for such work is only indirect, and most jealous, prayerful care is needed to prevent it from displacing the direct work of intercession. Any work that is visible so appeals to our pride that it is more attractive than is the lonely toil of intercession.

REJECTED.—It is generally considered that God has not called one to the foreign work because age, health, family relation, rejection by a mission board or other outward circumstances prevent him from going abroad. Such circumstances have no bearing whatever on the question as to whether the Lord wants you to work directly for the salvation of the heathen. God is waiting for you to take your place in the vital, difficult and blessed work of joining Christ in interceding before Him. It is not an evidence of obedience quietly to drift along at ease, letting the far-away, unseen multitudes perish for the lack of your prayers. Some labourers must not go to the mission fields.

SUBSTITUTES.—When a draft is made for war service only a limited number of men is called out, and a substitute has to be one of those not drafted in his own name. But in this spiritual war every citizen of Heaven is drafted. And no substitutes are possible because there are none left undrafted. Victory is impossible unless those at home meet and rout the Invisible foe. It is unjust to send a man into the deadly blackness of heathenism without giving your life in intercession for him while he gives his life for the heathen. We must "lay down our lives for the brethren." (1 John 3 16).

CANDIDATES.—Beware of ever urging any one to go as a missionary. The Holy Spirit only can do that with safety. We should rather urge that one set his will as flint that he is going to "do the will of my Father in heaven," and that he then pray, "Lord send forth labourers," and if the Lord really wants him in foreign fields it is only a matter of time and it will be made so plain that there will be no room for doubt.

REWARD.—There is a peculiar supplementay reward given for all missionary work. It is in addition to the honours of faithful labour, and is determined not by what is done, but by what is "left." For every comfort or friend that you leave in order to do this work you will receive one hundred fold (10,000 per cent.) of the comfort, rest, and satisfaction that they could afford- This is indescribably true of both missionary and intercessor, and is the kind of "joy set before him" that enabled Jesus to "endure." The missionary leaves by taking ship, the intercessor leaves by shutting the door of his closet.

Attendance on church meetings and conventions becomes a selfish indulgence of religious feelings when it leads to the neglect of the hard work God wants you to do. Men are dying in agony while you are enjoying a "beautiful" service, and while God is calling you to forget your very existence in watching and praying with groanings that cannot be uttered.

The unspeakable riches in Christ are discovered by the missionary, whether he is among the heathen preaching to them, or in the home-land interceding for them. These things are not mere matters of intellectual theory, but they have been proven in experience. They should become your experience also, for they are a following in the of footsteps Christ Jesus.--*Union Gospel News*.

THE ANSWER.

PRAYER COVENANT. (TO BE KEPT.)

I set my face unto Thee, Oh Lord God, to seek by prayer and supplication for Thy servants, the ambassadors of Christ to India, that by the authority and power of Thy Son Jesus they may subdue all adversaries and by Thy Spirit may so speak Thy word, that great multitude of Hindus and Mohammedans may believe and turn to the Living God and glorify Him in their lives.

In the name of Jesus. AMEN.

TO THE MISSIONARY

AT ______________________

My Dear ______________

I wish to become your Co-Missionary at........................ by interceding for you and the work. I have been led to fix the following days and hours for special prayer for you whiclhI shall strive to observe.

Days of week (or month) ______________

Hour of day. ______________

I shall be glad to learn about our work, its opportunities, needs, encouragements and difficulties, but shall remember that you may find it difficult to write as fully as you would wish.

Yours Sincerely.

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